

A Double Quest

Florence L. Henderson

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"Find a wife, settle down and I'll fix you for life," pronounced Abel Drake, uncle indulgent of Rodney Blair. "But, uncle," remonstrated the latter, "I don't want to marry. As to settling down, can anyone be more pleasantly and rationally adjusted to circumstances than I am? And as for fixing me for life, you have done that already."

But the resolute and obstinate old relative wagged his head defiantly. He was used to being obeyed; when he conceived a notion it was difficult to budge him from its execution. "When I was a young man," he related in quite a pathetic way, "I found an estimable girl. Like you, it jarred me to think of being tied down. She married well, probably never thought of me after she found a better man, but I missed it. Not only in losing her, but thenceforth adopting the lonely, selfish life that has made me half savage, wholly, hermit. Take a month, look around the world, find a mate and come back and begin life as a man should, with a loyal partner to share his troubles and joys."

For a week, pursuant to orders, Rodney drifted. He tried a fashionable summer resort and tired of its follies. It was a dreadful bore to wander about aimless, with no definite program to follow. He found innumerable fair faces, but they did not captivate him. "There must be something in this love business," he mused, "just as the analysts and sentimentalists aver."



"Here are the papers."

where ideal conditions and the ideal girl are in conjunction, are not to be sought after, but met, unexpectedly, fatefully.

If, however, fate was drifting him into the pathway of the ideal mate the process was slow. Several weeks passed by and Rodney was wearied of wandering. He had about made up his mind to write to his uncle resigning his wandering commission and returning home to the old cherished and longed-for life, when something happened.

It came with rather startling mystery and abruptness. Rodney had reached a little city in a state of the middle West, and had put up at a hotel deciding with the morning to purchase his tickets for a return to his original starting place. He put in an hour in the lobby at a cigar and reading the evening papers. There was a crowd of new arrivals, and the clerk at the office desk had his hands full and hurriedly slid across the counter the key asked for by Rodney.

He had not yet been up to his room and handed the key to a bellboy. Once within the apartment he sat down at a table, discovering there the usual outfit of writing and hotel paper. Rodney wrote fully to his uncle of his intentions to return, sealed the letter and started to go to the lower floor to mail it, when he paused.

"It is room seventy-seven," he heard a tremulous female voice say.

"This is it, miss," was the reply, evidently by the floorboy.

There came a timid knock at the door. Rodney opened it. A beautiful young girl, accompanied by an anxious-faced lady of middle age, stood there. Both directed quick, agitated glances at Rodney.

"You are Mr. West," fluttered the girl, and her evident distress, even fright, almost pained Rodney. It was so intense. "We received your note. If you will call at our home tomorrow morning we will have the money for you, provided you deliver the papers."

Regiment of Redheads.

Give a regiment an inspiring name and it charges on the double-quick to glory. The Death's Head Hussars, the Life Guards, the Black Watch, the Rough Riders—one's blood tingles to such names as to a bugle call.

Who wouldn't fight hard in the regiment now being recruited for Uncle Sam as "The Redheads"? Every man in this new volunteer organization is to qualify, first of all, by the fire in his hatch. The redder his hair the heartier his welcome.

The editor of a magazine published in the special interests of adventurers is sounding the call to colors, and redheads are flocking by dozens round his gory standard. "The main point," he contends, and we agree with him utterly, "is that the redheads ought to be one of the best fighting units, and one of the best known, that ever took the field. Aye! Not only will they take the field—when their time comes, they will sweep it! Since red is not protective coloration, this regiment should be reserved for charges against the enemy."—Collier's Weekly.

"Yes, here is the address," fluttered the other lady, and then her words ended in a sharp cry. She had placed a card with writing on it upon the table. As she did so her eye fell upon the letter Rodney had just addressed. She turned white and faint. She seized the arm of her companion, swaying weakly, as though about to faint.

"Oh, Ethel," she gasped, "some new mystery! Quick! get away from here!"

"I am not—" began Rodney in disclaimer, but the two visitors had hastened from the room. He was at a loss to understand the motive of the strange call. The fact that the super-scription on the envelope on the table had caused the elder woman distress was palpable. He tried to study it out as he placed the letter in his pocket. Then he hurried into the hall intent on overtaking the two women, but they had evidently already left the floor on the elevator.

The incident gave him food for thought. There was a curtained alcove at a bay window at one angle of the room. Turning off the light, Rodney seated himself there and looked down at the street. Perhaps he might see the two women leave the hotel. The face of the younger one had impressed itself indelibly upon his memory. Suddenly he was aroused. Two men had entered the room. The electric light was switched on.

"No word at the office of the hotel," spoke one.

"Oh, well, we shall still hear from them by morning," returned the other. "Here are the papers," and he extended a package.

"And then the men indulged in a brief, but enlightening conversation. Rodney Blair had led a quiet, uneventful life. The disclosures of the two men fairly horrified him. They were professional blackmailers. They had discovered some scandal against the dead husband of the elderly woman who had called with her niece. They had come to the town to demand all the poor woman had for a return of the incriminating documents.

It was then that Rodney realized that he had been shown to the wrong room by the bellboy. The villainy of the two conspirators stirred him up intensely. They parted without discovering him. One of the men placed the package and some other belongings under a pillow of the bed, put out the light and retired for the night.

It was a breathless experience that Rodney Blair went through before midnight, so foreign to the usual humdrum system of his life that he was burglar, fugitive and hero, all in one, according to story-book process. He was resolute to protect a defenseless woman, however. He regained his own room, the precious packet in his possession, grandly exultant.

More so, when he sought out Mrs. Mary Winslow the next day and gave her the papers that prevented a blot being placed upon the name of one dead, who had not been to her a good husband, but whose name she felt it disloyal not to protect.

"And then Rodney Blair made a discovery—why the sight of a letter directed to his uncle had so startled the woman. He made a second within the two ensuing weeks—that he loved her pretty niece, Alice Dugan.

"I have found what you sent me after, uncle," he announced, reappearing on the home scene one day.

"Found a wife, have you?" chuckled the old man. "All right, let me see who she is and I'll give you my blessing."

So they made the journey together. And then there came to Abel Drake the surprise of his life, as his nephew had foreseen.

For Mary Winslow was his boyhood love. It was natural that the old-time courting should be renewed. It was inevitable that it all eventuated in a double wedding.

Generally speaking, the cost of territorial administration in the United States is borne by the federal government. In Hawaii a direct property tax brings in most of the receipts, which in 1914 were \$3,768,468, while the expenses of the territory were \$4,687,545. The revenues of Alaska are mainly derived from business licenses; they amount to about \$1,000,000. It is estimated that the United States government has spent \$41,560,168 in administering the territory of Alaska, including the purchase price of \$7,500,000. The United States congress pays one-half of the expenses of the District of Columbia, its citizens the other half.

Quick Work.

Hank had been courting Mandy for six years. At last he plucked up courage to pop the question.

"Oh, Hank," said Mandy. "This is so sudden!"

"I know it is, Mandy," replied the ardent swain, "but I was afraid if I didn't get a hustle on me some of these other fellows might get ahead of me."

The total receipts of the theaters in Paris in 1914 were 41,600,000 francs, as compared with 68,450,000 francs in 1913.

Not True Character.

Make no mistake. The man who seeks to cultivate certain qualities of character primarily for the sake of the concrete success he believes will result from their exercise, is foredoomed to failure; such a character, from its very inception, is a sham, and character and resultant effects of service, and success, will come day under the stress of adverse circumstance, crumble into dust together.

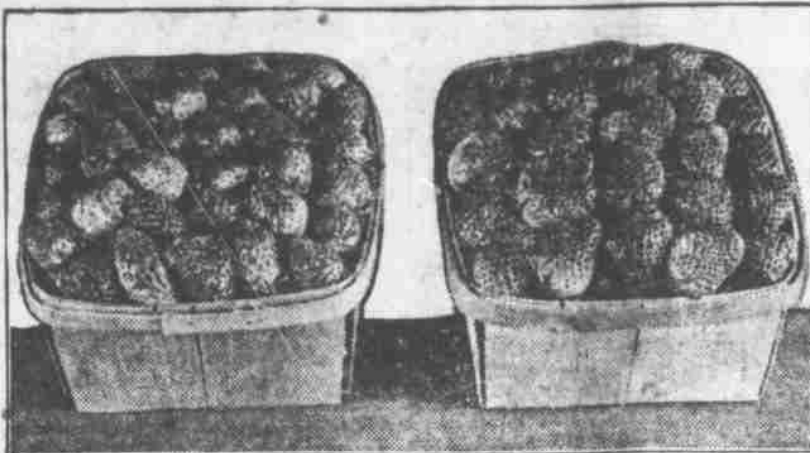
Record One's Own Thoughts.

"We view the world with our own eyes, each of us, and we make from within us the world we see," wrote Thackeray. "A weary heart gets no gladness out of sunshine; a selfish man is skeptical about friendship, as a man with no ear doesn't care for music."

Ancient Curiosities.

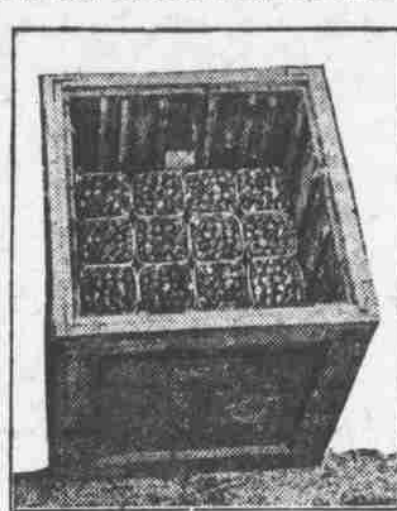
"This museum contains a number of interesting relics." "Yes." "Among the exhibits there is a dinosaur, an ichthyosaurus and a motor car made in 1899."

MOST PRODUCTIVE SOIL FOR STRAWBERRY



Quart Boxes of Well-Graded Strawberries—"Fancy" on the Right, "No. 1" on the Left.

The strawberry leads the list of small fruits in popularity because of its wide range of adaptation to soil and climatic conditions. The large number of varieties gives a long season of the most delicious fruit. Its ease of



Strawberries Packed for Market.

culture and its early season of bearing makes it a desirable home and market crop.

"The strawberry is most productive in a sandy loam soil, but if this type of soil is not available it may be grown with good results in many of the heavier soils," says F. S. Merrill, of the horticultural department of the Kansas state agricultural college.

"The poorest results usually occur on the sandiest soils, for these dry out more severely in the late summer months and prevent the formation of new plants and runners and reduce the development of fruiting buds for the subsequent season.

Freshly Broken Land Ideal. "Freshly broken land is usually ideal for a strawberry bed provided it has first been planted to some cultivated crop, such as potatoes. Sod land is likely to be infested with white grubs which are a dangerous foe to the tender plants."

There are many different ways of planting, states Mr. Merrill, but the two most commonly used are the hill system and the matted row system. In the hill system the plants are set 18 inches apart and no runners are allowed to develop. The strength of the plant is utilized in the formation of one stool. All the work done in cultivation in this system must be done with hand implements, but the returns are higher than the matted row system. A modification of this system is sometimes practiced by setting the rows three feet apart and the plants 18 inches apart in the row.

In the matted row system the rows are from three to four feet apart and the plants 12 to 18 inches apart in the row. New plants are permitted to develop until the row is two feet wide. With this system the work can be done mainly with horse-drawn implements.

NEGLECT IS COSTLY IN NURSERY STOCK

Big Loss Caused Every Spring Through Poor Handling, Says Minnesota Expert.

From 10 to 25 per cent of the nursery stock bought is lost every spring through poor handling, says W. G. Brierley of the horticultural division of the Minnesota college of agriculture. One should buy all nursery plants subject to inspection, he said, and reject the stock if it is in poor condition.

"One of the safest methods of handling nursery stock," he continues, "is to remove it from the shipping case and 'heel in' the soil that the plants may replenish the moisture lost in transit. If the bark appears shriveled it may be advantageous to even bury the entire stock in light soil for a day or two. Immersing in water is not advisable; it softens the bark too much.

"Other means of safe handling," Mr. Brierley continues, "are packing the stock firmly around the roots, throwing the richer topsoil in the bottom of the hole and crowning the top with light, loose soil, so as to preserve all moisture for the plant."

MARKETS DIFFER IN DEMAND FOR POULTRY

New York Not Particular Whether Its Dressed Fowls Are Scalded or Dry Picked.

There is a marked difference between the kind of prepared poultry different markets demand. For instance, New York is not very particular as to whether its dressed poultry comes scalded or dry picked.

Many of the western cities think the same if the poultry be nicely prepared and fowls of the same size are packed together; the yellow and white-skinned packed to themselves. Boston strictly wants its dressed fowls dry picked. Chicago likes its turkeys dry picked, but prefers chickens, ducks and geese scalded.

KEEP CLOSE WATCH FOR RIPPED SEAMS

Runaway Caused by Broken Parts of Harness Can Be Avoided by Attention.

"A stitch in time saves nine," sometimes it saves a runaway. When you use a harness, keep a sharp lookout for ripped seams and broken buckles. If there is a break, fix it at once, or else take it to the harness maker's without delay. Don't try to patch it with a piece of string, for the string is apt to break when you are going down hill. "Safety first."

Sort the Wool Clip.

The money for sorting the wool clip is just as good in your pocket as in the buyers'. Try it out this season, and see if you can't get a few more dollars toward that farm tractor or automobile.

Keeping the Colt Sleek.

A few minutes every day with brush and comb would keep the colt sleek. It is when we let this work slip that we have to turn the little fellow out and leave him to get rid of dust and dirt.

FLAVOR OF MILK IS IMPROVED BY OATS

Series of Experiments Made to Ascertain the Truth of This Assertion.

It has been asserted by some dairymen that the feeding of crushed oats to cows will improve the flavor of milk. To ascertain the correctness of this theory a series of experiments was made by the bureau of animal industry of the United States department of agriculture at the experimental dairy farm at Beltsville, Md.

Six cows were used in the experiment; three were fed a grain ration of cornmeal, bran and cottonseed meal; the other three were fed a grain mixture of five parts crushed oats and one part cottonseed meal.

A number of samples of milk from the cows fed these rations were submitted to various persons in the dairy division and they were asked to indicate their preference. In all 50 opinions were passed on various samples. Of these, 16 showed a preference for the milk from cows fed on crushed oats, 25 preferred that from the bran and corn ration, while nine expressed no choice.

The results show that in these rations not only was there no marked difference in favor of the crushed oats as a feed to improve flavor, but, if anything, the ration containing bran and corn was more successful in producing a fine-flavored milk.

PLANT FOOD NEEDED BY RUN-DOWN SOILS

Lime and Phosphorus Recommended to Improve Physical Defects of Worn Land.

The farmer who robs his soil is sawing off the limb upon which he is sitting. Your deed calls for the subsoil as well as the surface soil and the well of water if properly utilized.

Lime is the one thing most needed by the average rundown soil. Phosphorus, next to lime, is the mineral plant food probably most needed by the average unproductive soil.

WEED SEEDS SPREAD IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Found in Manure, Hay, Threshing Machines and Finally the Wind Blows Them.

Some of the many ways in which weed seeds find their way to the farms, as investigation shows, are in manure, in hay and in threshing machines, and finally the wind blows some of the lighter seeds for several miles.

Salt for Cattle.

Remember that both cows and calves require salt in summer as well as in winter. Good rock salt best answers the purpose.

Spare the Lash.

The horse that is always being tapped with the whip never knows what his master means.

Overfeeding the Calf.

It never pays to overfeed a calf on skim milk. Overfeeding is one of the common causes for inferior calves.

YEARS ARE HELD IN LEASH

If You Would Live Long Go Over to Halifax County, Va., and Hear Mr. Thomas Bruce.

If any of these authorities on what constitutes old age are in the vicinity will they please drop around to the Wolcott hotel and discuss the matter with Thomas E. Bruce of Halifax county, Va.? Mr. Bruce, who is eighty years young, has some definite ideas on the subject, and he knows where the years may be successfully interned so that they are harmless.

That beneficent spot is Halifax county, Va., sub! It is beyond doubt the most wonderful spot on the whole green earth. If Metchnikoff, who made goats' milk popular by discovering that the Bulgarians who drank it managed to live a long time, had only gone to Halifax county instead, there would be less artificial buttermilk on the market now.

Believe all of this from Mr. Bruce. The other day he halted in the foyer of the Wolcott, where he has been coming for many years, to hear one man console with another over the death of his father, seventy-five years old.

"He died of old age," the grieving one said.

"Old age?" broke in Mr. Bruce, indignantly. "Old age? Why, I am eighty years old—or young—myself. My mother lived to be ninety-six years old, my father was past ninety when he went on and I have an uncle living and in good health at one hundred and four. This old age is tommy rot, although I suppose people can't live long around here. They should come to my country, where the years are held in leash."

"And that is—?"

"Halifax county, Va., sub, as I've said."—New York Herald.

PAYING SALARIES TO WIVES

Discussion Started in Periodical Devoted to Women—Husband Is the Real Provider.

About the most foolish proposition that has been advanced for some time is the discussion now going on concerning the payment of salaries to wives. The discussion started some time ago in a periodical devoted to women, and it has been "ragging" ever since, with now and then some good soul advocating that the wife be paid regular wages, and the household expenses be apportioned properly—and a lot more of the same line.

The ideal home is the one where the wife is not bothered with finances, where the husband is the provider—and provides. In this ideal home the wife knows the standard of living which should be maintained, and the husband is not annoyed in any way with apportioning the household expenses. The wife has what she wants, because she wants only what the family can afford, and the husband takes care of all expenditures, whether in the way of money outlay or by paying all bills promptly. In the ideal home the question of money is seldom mentioned, for the reason that it does not have to be mentioned. The husband sees to it that the wife is amply provided with funds.—Dayton News.

Mirage.

Mirages are most often seen in hot climates, especially over sandy deserts, and also frequently in the Polar regions, the cause being assigned to sharp variations in the atmosphere. They are also visible at times in the temperate zones, the general opinion being that the objects seen are reflected on minute particles of dust in the air. The same effect has been witnessed in mists or fogs, the supposition being that the reflection is carried on the tiny globules of moisture then contained in the atmosphere. If you noted the weather conditions at the time the mirage was visible, you will probably find the explanation in the reason last mentioned.

Artificial Abrasives.

Artificial abrasives have nearly displaced the natural. The United States production of corundum and emery is reported to have gradually increased in quantity and value from 1880 and then decreased in value per ton, but increased in quantity, thus maintaining an annual average of about \$100,000 until 1902. In the decline since then corundum mining has ceased and emery mining is nearly dead. The artificial abrasives produced are carborundum, crystallon, alundum, aloxite, crushed steel and steel shot.

Cremation.

The process of cremation is as follows: The casket is lowered into the incinerating room, the metal handles and name plate are removed, and it is put into the retort. The heat is so intense that after a few hours only the ashes of the bones remain, all else, including the structure of the casket, having disappeared in light ash or gaseous products. The casket screws and nails are removed by a magnet and about four ounces of pure ash remain.

Discrimination.

"Care much for poetry?" asked the studious person.

"Yes, indeed," replied the man who was reading a pink paper.

"Who's your favorite—Browning, Byron, Keats or Shelley?"

"Oh, I've never read anything by those fellows, but I saw a piece on the sporting page of a newspaper yesterday that was every bit as good as 'Casey at the Bat.'"

Pencil Stubs.

Thrifty persons are advised to save the "stubs" of lead pencils to avert a threatened pencil famine, owing to diminished supplies used in making these daily necessities. The stubs, which almost everyone has been in the habit of throwing away, can be fitted into a holder and used to the extreme end.

A Potato Masher.

Bilson—That new cook of yours is a very handsome woman, isn't she? Jilson—You bet she is. Why, all she has to do is to smile at the potatoes and they are mashed.

Keep it in Your Stable.

For external use on horses nothing that we know of equals Hanford's Balm. Many trainers use it as a leg wash because it keeps the skin in fine condition and should cure lameness. Adv.

Reproof.

"Does your boy Josh have any ideas about running a farm?" "I should say so," replied Farmer Cornsossel. "He says I'm all wrong. I'm spoiling the makin' of a fine set of golf links jes' for the sake of a little corn an' hay an' such."

No Limits.

"That fellow is a pinhead." "Oh, no; a pinhead knows just how far it can go."

IF YOU OR ANY FRIEND

Suffer with Rheumatism or Neuritis, acute or chronic, write for my FREE BOOK on Rheumatism—Its Cause and Cure. Most wonderful book ever written. It's absolutely FREE. Jesse A. Case, Dept. C. W., Brockton, Mass.—Adv.

If love letters were written after the style of diplomatic notes there would be few breach of promises cases.

Why so much criticism of the man who puts his foot in his mouth? It's his foot and his mouth.

For galls use Hanford's Balm.

Adv.

Willie's Conundrum.

"Pa, why is an ice wagon like a fish?"

"Don't know, my son, why?"

"Because it has scales on it."

The Fitting Sort.

"My glove told me today that he has twins."

"Most appropriate. A pair of kids."

FRECKLES

Now Is the Time to Get Rid of These Ugly Spots.

There's no longer the slightest need of feeling ashamed of your freckles, as the prescription ethine-double strength—is guaranteed to remove these homely spots. Simply get an ounce of ethine-double strength—from your druggist, and apply a little of it night and morning and you should soon see that even the worst freckles have begun to disappear, while the lighter ones have vanished entirely. It is seldom that more than one ounce is needed to completely clear the skin and gain a beautiful clear complexion.

Be sure to ask for the double strength ethine, as this is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.—Adv.

A Marvel.

"Senator Blinks has a wonderful memory, hasn't he?" "He has indeed. He never forgets a face before election and never remembers a promise afterward."

For proud flesh use Hanford's Balm of Myrrh.

Adv.

Too Popular.

"I was the most popular man in the class of 1887."

"Well?"

"And I have been staking impeccable classmates ever since."

Hanford's Balm of Myrrh is itself an antiseptic and the use of any other remedy before applying it is unnecessary. Adv.

Rather a Stimulus.

"Half the office force is in love with my pretty stenographer."

"Does it interfere with their work?"

"Oh, no. They're all speeding up, trying to win promotion."

HOW TO TREAT DANDRUFF

Itching Scalp and Falling Hair With Cuticura. Trial Free.

On retiring touch spots of dandruff and itching with Cuticura Ointment. Next morning shampoo with Cuticura Soap and hot water. A clean, healthy scalp means good hair and freedom, in most cases, from dandruff, itching, burning, crustings and scalings.

Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Modesty Line Changes.

Mrs. Thomas A. Edison is of the opinion that some of the accepted present-day styles of feminine dress have passed "beyond the bounds of modesty." Perhaps so, but these dress critics seem to ignore the fact that the modesty line changes with the fashions.

For fresh cuts apply Hanford's Balm.

Adv.

The workman who turns out a poor job is an improvement on the one who does nothing but stand around and make remarks about it.

Habit is a sort of chattel mortgage on a man's individuality.

Shipping Fever.

Influenza, Pink Eye, Epizootic, Distemper and all other diseases cured, and all others, no matter how "exposed," kept from having any of these diseases with SPOHN'S DISTEMPER COMPOUND. Three to five doses often cure a case. One 50-cent bottle guaranteed to do so. Best thing for brood mares; acts on the blood. 50c a bottle, \$5 dozen bottles. Druggists and harness shops or manufacturers sell it. Agents wanted.

SPOHN MEDICAL CO., Chemists, Goshen, Ind., U. S. A.

Bumper Grain Crops

Good Markets—